

**Anglican Diocese of Chester – Middlewich Deanery
Mid Cheshire Circuit of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District of the Methodist Church**

St Mary's Church, Weaverham



**Annual Report and Financial Statements of the Ecumenical Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2020**

Incumbent

Reverend Paul Withington, The Vicarage, Church Street, Weaverham, NORTHWICH,
CW8 3NJ

Methodist Minister

Reverend Chris Pritchard, 36 Earls Way, Kingsmead, NORTHWICH, CW9 8GQ

Secretary and Treasurer

John J C Freeman, Stable Court, 20a Leigh Way, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3PR

Banks

Santander, Bridle Road, BOOTLE, L30 4GB

CCLA Investment Management Ltd., Senator House, 85 Queen Victoria Street, LONDON, EC4V 4ET

Honorary Independent Examiner

Kevin D Pickering, 5 Withens Close, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3JJ

Registered Charity Number: 1135093

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH, WEAVERHAM ANNUAL REPORT FOR
THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER 2020**

St. Mary's Church is situated in Church Street, Weaverham. It is a Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) between the parish church of the Church of England in the parish of St Mary in the Middlewich Deanery and Chester Diocese and the Methodist Church within the Mid Cheshire Circuit of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District. The partnership looks for support, encouragement, advice and overview to the relevant denominations, the Diocese and the Methodist District. The correspondence address is St Mary's Lighthouse Centre, Church Lane, Weaverham, NORTHWICH, CW8 3NN.

ECC members who have served in the year are: -

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Revd. Paul Withington	Chairman
<i>Curate</i>	Revd. Phil Bishop	
<i>Methodist Minister:</i>	Revd. Chris Pritchard	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Ted Smith	until APCM
	Vicky Rushton	
	Colin Weeks	
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>	John Freeman	
	Peter Wilkinson	
	David Whitfield	
	Gillian Edwards	from APCM
<i>Methodist Stewards:</i>	David Whitfield	
	Mike Hornby	
<i>Representatives from lay church roles:</i>	Gilly Latham	
	Linda Jones	
	Jules Sanders	
	Mike Sanders	
<i>Elected members:</i>		
Carol Johnson – (elected 2020)	Yvonne Williams- (elected 2018)	
Cath Henshall – (until APCM)	Louise Parry (elected 2018)	
Chris Hornby – (elected 2019)	Mike Hornby – (elected 2018)	
Ruth Kunzi – (until APCM)	Robert Owens – (elected 2019)	
	Sue Winnington – (elected 2020)	

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of ECC members (trustees) is set out in the Constitution of the Local Ecumenical Partnership signed in November 2009. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the ECC.

Objectives and activities

St Mary's ECC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. Paul Withington and Methodist Minister the Revd. Chris Pritchard in promoting the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the buildings associated with the church.

St Mary's is fully integrated as an LEP between the Anglican and Methodist Churches in Weaverham. We worship at the Anglican Church building with our services varied between Anglican and Methodist styles and leadership. United services began this year, members of all four services meeting at one service to worship together.

The vision statement for St Mary's Ecumenical Church, Weaverham is as follows:

St Mary's Church Weaverham, sharing the light and hope of Jesus with our community.

Achievements and performance

Church attendance

The current electoral role has 141 members. We have a duality of Anglican and Methodist members; members can be either or both. Attendance varied during the year starting as normal then falling to zero during some lockdown periods and about 50 when the Church was able to open for services,

Review of the year

The year started as normal, however the outbreak of Covid 19 in March led to the closure of the Church building. It was opened for prayer in July followed by a single 10 am service on Sunday from late August. We were once again reduced to opening for prayers on Wednesdays and Sundays following lockdown in November. It was possible to hold a Christmas Eve Communion service and a family Communion service on Christmas Day in the church building. Cleaning was reorganized and weekly cleaning took place augmented by a contracted clean following funerals, once they were permitted again in church. Revd Phil Bishop joined as curate in July.

The ECC met six times during the year. The Annual Church Meeting was postponed to September when Ted Smith stood down as church warden. Paul led tributes and thanks to Ted. The Fabric and Standing Committees met as required in what was a far from normal year. Health and Safety and Safeguarding remain standing items at each ECC meeting. Any issues or incidents are recorded in ECC minutes.

The main church building remains in very good condition and maintenance has been ongoing with the next quinquennial inspection due in the coming year.

The ECC thank the commitment and dedication of those members who give of their gifts, talents, time and finances to the church especially during these more trying times. Also, thanks for the increased cleaning that has been necessary and marshalling of the congregation when services have been possible.

The Church continued supporting a wide range of groups and events that are aimed at meeting the social, spiritual and practical needs of our members and the wider village community at the start of the year. With lockdown in March a significant number had to cease including the Upcycling Shed, face to face House Groups and the Lunch and Leg Clubs in the Lighthouse. Instead, Bob and Lindsay Hough stepped into the breach leading a group of volunteers preparing and distributing a hot meal to parishioners who had found themselves having to isolate. Once lockdown had eased they ceased and in their place there has been a scheme introduced in co-operation with a new charity, Northwich Community Support, to distribute leftover supermarket food items to members of the parish each week which has been well received. This was augmented by distribution of toys donated by members of the community for Christmas.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE ECUMENICAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF SAINT
MARY THE VIRGIN, WEAVERHAM**

This report on the accounts of the ECC for the year ended 31 December 2020 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church of England Accounting Regulations 2006 (the Regulations) and Section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act). As members of the ECC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirements of the Regulations and Section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 43(7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the Church of England Guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the ECC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given on the accounts.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 41 of the Act, to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or to which, in my opinion attention, should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Kevin D Pickering – Hon Independent Examiner – February 2021

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The normal revenue activities of the Church for the year indicate an excess of receipts over payments of £5177. This was better than the anticipated deficit. It was partly due to strange events of the year. The main positive items were having received donations earlier than expected towards the cost of the curate of around £5000, a donation from the Diocese of £2000, a net contribution from Covid lunch activities of £1300 and savings on utilities. They were offset by losses of income from the Lighthouse due to lockdown. This was slightly offset by an increase of £122 in the value of the War Memorial investment shares.

2021 is going to be a challenging year. With the continued closure of the Church and Lighthouse for many activities we are likely to see a significant reduction of income in the coming year. This is despite having no planned project and the Parish Share being kept at 2020 levels until April and then only increasing by 1%. None the less the Circuit Fee is likely to increase by 5% during the year.

To meet the Church's ambition of significantly reducing our net energy consumption the possibility of making St Marys carbon neutral is to be investigated either through solar panels or ground source heating.

Energy usage for the year was as follows, 2019 figures in brackets. Gas, church 74 697 kWh (74 306), Lighthouse 10 863 kWh (19 960) and electricity church 3203 kWh (4945), Lighthouse 4070 kWh (8632).

Gas consumption was similar in church this year due to Covid and the previous year due to a period when the boiler was out of service. Electricity was down due to Covid. At the Lighthouse both fell to around 50% of normal usage due to Covid.

RESERVES POLICY

Long term reserves policy agreed by the Church Council is to have a minimum amount of cash for 3 months' normal activities of £25 000 plus around £10 000 to provide funds for unexpected repairs to the Church, a Grade 1 listed building. We effectively dipped into this money during the year with the costs of the boiler repair and the fitting of an automatic tower clock winder. We continue to hold an amount of £29 677 against a possible VAT liability.

ACCOUNTING POLICY

The accounts of the Council have been prepared in accordance with the Church of England Accounting Regulations taking into account the SORP 2005 revisions on a receipts and payments basis. Movable church furnishings are held on trust for the Council by the Church Wardens and would require faculty approval before removal. Accounts of the Men's Society, Hope Café, Men' and Ladies' breakfasts and activities with pre-school children are not included as they are small and make no direct call on Council funds. The Mothers Union accounts are not included as they respond to their headquarters for accounting purposes.

ACCOUNTS FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	2019 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary income	A	100921		100921	90759
Church activities	B	7443		7443	13802
Fund raising					
Income from investments	C	<u>240</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>286</u>	<u>492</u>
TOTAL		108604	46	108650	105053
PAYMENTS					
Church activities	D	101085		101085	113916
Fund raising					
Salaries		<u>2342</u>	—	<u>2342</u>	<u>2520</u>
TOTAL		103427		103427	116436
NET INCOMING RESOURCES					
Gains/losses on investment assets		<u>5177</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>5223</u>	<u>-11383</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		5177	122	5299	-11120
BALANCES 1 JANUARY		<u>751080</u>	<u>2302</u>	<u>753382</u>	<u>764502</u>
BALANCES 31 DECEMBER		756257	2424	758681	753382

BALANCE SHEET 31 DECEMBER 2020

FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible asset – Lighthouse	E	684440		684440	684440
Investment assets	F		1514	1514	1438
CURRENT ASSETS					
Short term deposits	F	51995	910	52905	52639
Cash at banks	F	<u>19822</u>		<u>19822</u>	<u>14865</u>
TOTAL		756257	2424	758681	753382

The notes A to E form part of the accounts

A Voluntary income

Planned giving					
Gift aid		58786		58786	59728
Tax recovered		16780		16780	15990
Other		6580		6580	8307
Collections		1140		1140	4082
Donations - General		1908		1908	1779
- grant from Diocese		2000		2000	
- Covid lunches		2586		2586	
- Curate		<u>11141</u>		<u>11141</u>	<u>873</u>
		100921		100921	90759

B Church activities

Lighthouse		2407		2407	7764
Fees		<u>5036</u>		<u>5036</u>	<u>6038</u>
		7443		7443	13802

			2020	2019
C Income from investments	£	£	£	£
Deposit account	220		220	424
Wayleave	20		20	20
War Memorial	<u> </u>	<u>46</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>48</u>
	240	46	286	492
D Church activities				
Giving				
Overseas missions	2000		2000	1000
Overseas development agencies	2000		2000	2000
Home missions	2025		2025	2411
Others				1000
Ministry				
Parish share	61184		61184	59693
Circuit fee	3171		3171	8368
Other ministry costs	5713		5713	5736
Curate	2486		2486	
Church running and maintenance	11532		11532	17888
Clock winder				4266
Covid lunches	1291		1291	
Training	621		621	1451
Lighthouse	5813		5813	7973
Administration	<u>3249</u>		<u>3249</u>	<u>2130</u>
	101085		101085	113916

During the year the ECC employed an organist and verger. The organist deals with his own tax and payments to the verger were too small to attract social security payments. Together they equate to less than one full time employee. Reimbursement of out of pocket expenses were made to some ECC members all supported by the necessary invoices.

E The Lighthouse and its Annex are currently valued at £684 440.

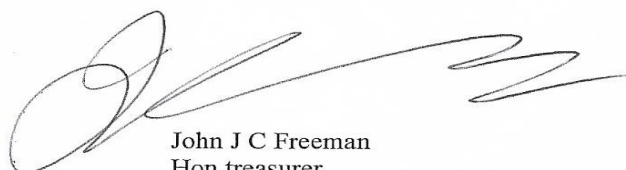
F Cash balances at 31 December

			2020	2019
Current accounts	10103		10103	3563
Deposit account	51995		51995	51775
Church House	9719		9719	11302
War Memorial deposit		910	910	864
War Memorial 74 CBF shares	<u> </u>	<u>1514</u>	<u>1514</u>	<u>1438</u>
	71817	2424	74241	68942

Approved by the Ecumenical Church Council at its meeting held on 16th February 2021



Reverend Paul Withington
Incumbent



John J C Freeman
Hon treasurer